

Prostate Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 10/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find some questions to ask your doctor or other members of your health care team to help you better understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, and overall care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

[Talking often with the doctor](#) [3] is important to make informed decisions about your health care. These suggested questions are a starting point to help you learn more about your cancer care and treatment. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to you. You may want to print this list and bring it to your next appointment, or [download Cancer.Net's free mobile app](#) [4] for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your care.

Before diagnosis?risk reduction and screening

- What type of prostate cancer screening schedule do you recommend for me, based on my individual medical profile and family history?
- Are there any changes I can make to my diet that can help me lower my risk of prostate cancer?

After a diagnosis of prostate cancer

- What type of prostate cancer do I have, and how aggressive is it?
- What stage is my prostate cancer, and what does this mean?
- What is the Gleason score of my prostate cancer? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What experience do you have treating this type of cancer?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me? Where are they located, and how do I find out more about them?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- What is the goal of each treatment? Is it to eliminate the cancer, help me feel better, or both?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment and follow-up care?
- What are the possible side effects of each treatment option, both in the short term and the long term?
- How will this treatment affect my daily life? Will I be able to work, exercise, and perform my

usual activities?

- Will I have difficulty controlling my bladder or bowel function after treatment?
- Could this treatment affect my sex life? If so, how and for how long?
- Could this treatment affect my ability to have children? If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins? Should I consider sperm banking?
- What type of recovery should I expect following treatment?
- What follow-up care tests will I need, and how often will I need them?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?

The next section offers some more resources that may be helpful to you. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Additional Resources, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/prostate-cancer/questions-ask-doctor>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24958>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/29951>